



MARAD Update



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PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH MAKES HISTORY AS COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER FOR U.S. MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY'S CLASS OF 2006

President George W. Bush made history on June 19 when he stepped off the Marine One helicopter onto the campus of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. The president was aboard to deliver the keynote address to the 202 members of the Academy's Class of 2006, and he was the first sitting U.S. president to ever visit the Kings Point, Long Island campus.

When President Bush was announced and walked to the podium with the Academy's band performing "Hail to the Chief" in the background, the crowd of about 5,000 onlookers rose to their feet in applause.



Photos courtesy of U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

President Bush delivering the keynote address to the graduating class of 2006 at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

"This is a proud moment for the Class of 2006," the president said. "You have worked hard for this day... On behalf of the American people, I congratulate you on a fine achievement, and I thank you for choosing to serve the United States of America."

Thirty-three members of the Academy's 2006 class were sworn into active military duty during commencement, with another 13 graduates expected to enter active duty in the months ahead. The rest of the class was commissioned as U.S. Naval Reserve ensigns.

Story by Martin Skrocki, Public Information Officer, USMMA

Among the dignitaries on the commencement stage with the president were U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Transportation Maria Cino, Acting Deputy Maritime Administrator and Chief Counsel Julie Nelson, and three former Maritime Administrators: Warren Leback, Albert Herberger and William Schubert.

The President ended his 20-minute keynote address with an exhortation to the rows of Academy graduates arrayed in their choker white tunics. "I ask you to go forth with faith in America, and confidence in the eternal promise of liberty," he said.

As the last part of the Academy's 70th commencement ceremony, President Bush shook hands—and, in some cases, exchanged high fives and hugs—with all of the graduates as they walked across the stage to receive their diplomas and merchant marine licenses as deck or engineering officers.

The members of the class of 2006 represented 34 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The class also included six students from the Republic of Panama. Third mate licenses went to 116 graduates; another 86 earned third assistant engineer licenses. Twenty-eight women were part of this year's class, bringing the total number of academy female graduates to 552.

Many of the Academy's graduates were clearly in awe of having their commander-in-chief at graduation. "I knew it was going to be an impressive speech," said graduate Michael Metz of Hopewell, N.J. "But the President was also real personal with all of us."



President Bush waving with graduate Ross Coviello to the young man's family in the viewing stand.

MARAD Salutes Its Employees Who Went “Above and Beyond” in Their Service to America

*By Ella Thomas
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs*

Employees, families and friends packed the Oklahoma City Room in the U.S. Department of Transportation headquarters on June 15, for MARAD's 41st Annual Employee Recognition Awards Ceremony. The theme for this year's awards ceremony was "Above and beyond."

Serving as the event's master of ceremonies was Patrick Carlton, Transportation Leadership Program participant and acting director of the Office of Human Resources. Bowie Senior High School Color Guard of Bowie, Md., posted the colors for the ceremony. Timothy Brooks of the Federal Aviation Administration sang the national anthem. Rev. Joy Douglas, an ordained minister and MARAD employee, offered the invocation.

Acting Deputy Maritime Administrator and Chief Counsel Julie Nelson offered remarks, followed by the presentation of awards to the recipients. Ms. Nelson said, "I know that all of you here have been instrumental in significant changes taking place in the maritime industry. And you know, as I do, that the achievements of the marine transportation system are all a reflection of your contributions, hard work and dedication. Our continued success is dependent on you. Knowing that I can count on you makes my job so much easier and more pleasurable. You are a remarkable group of people and I am pleased to have had this opportunity to tell you so and to work with you."

Fifteen individuals received MARAD bronze medals, which is the highest award the Maritime Administration may independently give. The medal is awarded to recipients by the maritime administrator in recognition of extremely competent performance of official duties. Four award-winning teams received MARAD bronze medals for team achievement. Eight award-winning teams received MARAD team awards. Three individuals received equal employment opportunity awards.

2006 Individual Bronze Medal Awardees

***Robert D. Babin
Dean T. Baldus
Ellen M. Baluchinsky
Dennis J. Brennan
Michael C. Carter
Francis K. Critelli
Calvin L. Ferguson
Billy F. Greer
Ann P. Herchenrider
Adrian D. Jordan
Matthew A. McNally
Joseph A. Pecoraro
Tim P. Roark
Susan E. Schaefer
Eric O. Welch***



Deputy Maritime Administrator and Chief Counsel Julie Nelson (left) with part of the agency-wide Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Response Team posing with the bronze medal team achievement award. The team is recognized for humanitarian service provided to the citizens of the Gulf Coast region, the Port of New Orleans and members of MARAD's Central Region who were directly affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

2006 Equal Employment Opportunity Awardees

***Iris Cooper — Earnest Hawkins EEO Award (Supervisory)
Gertrude Benally — Ralph W. Ferguson EEO Award (Non-Supervisory)
Rita Thomas — Ardell E. Scribner EEO Award (Collateral Duty)***

Honoring American Seafarers During National Maritime Day 2006 Ceremonies in New York City

By Bill McDonald, North Atlantic Region

MARAD's North Atlantic Region Office coordinated and participated in National Maritime Day 2006 activities in the Port of New York and New Jersey on May 22, 2006. Region Director Bob McKeon and Maritime Program Specialist Bill McDonald joined The Rev. Dr. Jean R. Smith, Executive Director of The Seamen's Church Institute of New York & New Jersey, senior members of The Port Authority of NY & NJ, U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port of New York Glenn Wilkshire and more than 160 World War II merchant marine veterans, family members and industry leaders for the day's events, which began with a memorial service at historic Trinity Church in Lower Manhattan honoring the 9,000 U.S. merchant mariners who lost their lives in World War II.



(Left to right) MARAD's North Atlantic Region Director Bob McKeon; Maritime Program Specialist Bill McDonald; The Rev. Dr. Jean R. Smith, Executive Director of The Seamen's Church Institute of New York & New Jersey; and U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port of New York Glenn Wilkshire during National Maritime Day 2006 events in New York City.

Among those addressing the service were Capt. Glenn Wilkshire and George E. Goldman, President of the Dennis Roland Chapter of the American Merchant Marine Veterans, who stated, "We are here to pay tribute to those who gave their lives to build the bridge of ships that sustained allied forces during World War II. May the deep sea where they now sleep rock them gently until the end of time." Following the service, the group proceeded to the seawall in Battery Park in Lower Manhattan for a lost seafarers wreath laying ceremony at The

American Merchant Mariners Memorial, followed by a luncheon with World War II music playing at the Seamen's Church Institute.

Luncheon speakers included Bob McKeon, who praised the heroism and sacrifices of World War II seafarers and introduced Dean Steele, President of the Port of New York Chapter of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Alumni Foundation. Mr. Steele spoke with respect to a campaign called "Tell America," which relates the significance of the U.S. merchant marine to the lives of all Americans. The luncheon remarks were followed by a showing of the DVD presentation "U.S. Merchant Marine: Serving America in Peace and War," which supports the aims of "Tell America."

At the conclusion of the day's activities, Messrs. McKeon and McDonald distributed copies of the DVD presentation to participants, together with the President's Proclamation, a National Maritime Day 2006 Power Point presentation prepared by MARAD Headquarters personnel, an article on the creation of containerization and information on the "Tell America" campaign.



(Photos courtesy of The Seamen's Church Institute of New York & New Jersey)

The lost seafarers wreath laying ceremony at The American Merchant Mariners Memorial on National Maritime Day 2006.

MARAD's IT Chief Recognized as Laureate By The Computerworld Honors Program

Longest Running Global Program Pays Tribute to Individuals and Organizations that Use Information Technology to Benefit Society

By Thom Robinson
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs

International Data Group's *Computerworld* Honors Program has selected Donna Seymour, MARAD's Chief Information Officer, as one of its honors laureate winners for 2006. For almost two decades, *Computerworld* Honors has acknowledged those individuals and organizations that have used information technology to benefit society.

Ms. Seymour was selected in the government and non-profit organizations category for MARAD's Virtual Office of Acquisitions (VOA), which MARAD built using the new EMC Documentum-based content management foundation. It is a paperless system that manages the bid and proposal process from bid solicitation through award notification and contract administration.

"I am proud and pleased with the accomplishments of our entire technology staff here at MARAD and will be happy to accept this award on our behalf for our work on the VOA, a paperless acquisition system built on commercial tools. Our suc-



Donna Seymour (right) and Iris Cooper display the Computerworld Honors Program medal, which Ms. Seymour received as a 2006 honors laureate winner at the Washington, D.C., ceremony on June 5.

cess would not have been possible without the vision of two acquisitions directors, Iris Cooper and Tim Roark, who partnered with me to make this a reality," said Ms. Seymour.

This year's honorees were commemorated during the 18th Annual Laureates Medal Ceremony and Gala Awards Evening on June 5, at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C.

The magazine says its honors program brings together the world's foremost information technology companies to recognize and document the achievements of the men, women, organizations and institutions around the world, whose visionary applications of information technology promote positive social, economic and educational change. "Each laureate selected for this honor understands the importance of using one's resources and technical prowess to benefit one's fellow man," said Bob Carrigan, Chairman of the Computerworld Honors Program Chairmen's Committee and President of IDG Communications.

MARAD Update

The **MARAD Update** is published by the Maritime Administration's Office of Congressional and Public Affairs. This publication is available to all individuals regardless of age, race, religion, color, sex, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation. For more information or to submit questions or concerns, telephone (202) 366-5807, visit the MARAD website at www.marad.dot.gov, or e-mail pao.marad@dot.gov.

Publisher
Julie Nelson

Managing Editor
Susan Clark

Editor
Ella Thomas